

## News Release

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### DPI offers model global scholars policy

MADISON — School districts can voluntarily adopt a policy to award a Global Education Achievement Certificate to recognize students who demonstrate their global competency through academic and co-curricular activities.

“We absolutely need our high school graduates to be knowledgeable about the world so they are prepared to be successful in the different cultural and linguistic environments that have become a part of everyday life through trade, travel, and the Internet,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “The global scholars certificate creates a framework for students to demonstrate global citizenship and to have those efforts recognized at a local and state level.”

“Economic growth and well-being in Wisconsin depends today on how well we can compete and collaborate with the rest of the world. The Global Education Achievement Certificate is a critical step in recognizing and developing the talent our state needs to build its global future,” said Gilles Bousquet, chair of the Statewide International Education Council, senior special assistant to the president of the University of Wisconsin System for international strategies, and a University of Wisconsin-Madison professor.

Mindful of ever-tightening budgets in school districts, the Department of Public Instruction worked collaboratively to develop the new model policy so it can be implemented using existing resources. All the necessary courses — world languages, mathematics, literature, history, science, social studies, and the arts — are already a part of every high school curriculum.

While each school district will specify local requirements, the model policy calls for students to take coursework in world languages as well as other subjects that have strong global dimensions, to demonstrate cultural literacy, to have extracurricular activities and experiences with global themes, and to complete a community service project connected to a global community or global issue.

The Wisconsin Global Education Achievement Certificate responds to demands from students for more opportunities to experience other cultures during high school and from employers who say they want Wisconsin graduates to be career-ready for the multicultural, interconnected world. The Wisconsin Global Education

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Achievement Certificate is endorsed by the Statewide International Education Council, the Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers (WAFLT), the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA), the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA), and the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB).

“The Wisconsin Global Education Achievement Certificate creates a pathway to educating Global Scholars with existing resources,” AWSA, WASB, and WASDA executive directors Jim Lynch, John Ashley, and Jon Bales said in their endorsements. “We look forward to continued collaboration to give all Wisconsin students an opportunity to become Global Scholars.”

Kurt Bauer, president of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, called the certificate an important step to support Wisconsin’s global competitiveness. “Foreign investment in Wisconsin companies exceeds \$16 billion per year. In 2012, Wisconsin exported \$23.1 billion worth of goods to more than 200 countries. It makes economic sense to give high school students global opportunities to prepare them for the working world of today,” Bauer said.

“World language teachers will continue to educate current and future generations of students with the cultural knowledge and the multilingual communication skills necessary for many careers and good citizenship,” said Keely Lake, WAFLT president. “Bringing together strands of global learning in various subject areas through this certificate will help all school communities in their efforts to educate well-rounded, globally competent workers and citizens.”

“Our local school districts are diverse, varying widely in size, resources, and curriculum offerings,” Evers noted. “The Wisconsin Global Education Achievement Certificate model policy takes this diversity into account so districts can shape policies that reflect their local circumstances and character yet are rigorous enough to be valued in the college admissions process and by prospective employers.”

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**NOTES:** More information about the Wisconsin Global Education Achievement Certificate and global education is available on the Department of Public Instruction International Education website, [http://cal.dpi.wi.gov/cal\\_internrtled/](http://cal.dpi.wi.gov/cal_internrtled/). This news release is available electronically at [http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2013\\_100.pdf](http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2013_100.pdf).